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SPORTS

Winchester hockey begins season with shutout win over league rival Wilmington

JOE MCCONNELL | SPORTS EDITOR

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The Red & Black boys hockey, last year's D-1 state finalists, looks for a return trip to the Garden with different results. COURTESY PHOTO/WINCHESTER HIGH SCHOOL

The Winchester High School Red & Black boys hockey team finis
regular season last year with a 13-9-1 record.

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They were the 11th seed in the Division 1 power rankings, and went on to win four more games in the postseason to earn a spot in the state championship finale, where they lost to St. John's Prep (22-3, top seed) at the TD Garden, 3-2 on St. Patrick's Day.

The team started that memorable postseason run with a 3-2 overtime win over Waltham (11-9-1, 22nd seed) in the Round of 32. They defeated Arlington (17-4-3, sixth seed) by the same score in the Round of 16, followed by a 4-1 triumph over Catholic Memorial (15-5-3, third seed) in an Elite 8 game.

Arlington Catholic (12-12-1, 18th seed) fell to its Winchester neighbors in a state semifinal game in overtime, 3-2, which sent coach Gino Khachadourian's team to the Garden to face the aforementioned Eagles from Danvers.

"We had an up and down start to the season, but still finished strong, which helped us carry that momentum into the postseason," said Khachadourian. "We then went on an incredible run that ultimately led us to the TD Garden for a chance to play for the Division 1 state title. The game didn't end up going in our favor, but there was still so much to be proud of. (The long run) created a once in a lifetime experience that brought so much joy and camaraderie not only within our team, but within the community, as well."

But now, it's a brand-new year, and so far, the Red & Black have played just one game, shutting out Wilmington, 5-0 on Dec. 14.

"We had another tremendous showing at tryouts, and we appreciated everyone's hard work and dedication. The practices were upbeat, and filled with excitement as we got closer to the start of the regular season," said Khachadourian.

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The Red & Black scrimmaged Medford, St. John's Prep and Andover, before the opener against the Wildcats.

"We like to establish routines and rituals on and off the ice (before the season) to help build team chemistry," said the veteran coach. "The season starts so quickly that we are continuously throwing new information at our players, especially the first-year guys."

Jonny Garmey, Chris McCarthy, Thomas Casey and Griffin Lynch are this year's captains.

"Each one of these captains bring a dedicated effort and willingness to do anything for the team. They are incredibly impactful on the younger players, helping them understand the systems, while also getting them accustomed to the varsity level.

They also lead the other veterans in order to develop an environment that promotes encouragement and trust between one another," said Khachadourian.

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But the coach then added: "There are a lot of veteran leaders on our team that can carry us a long way this season. As they gain another year of experience, we are going to lean on them even more, especially in crucial parts of a game."

The team's ability to remain positive and encourage one another in practices, games and off ice activities will be important elements even more success this year, according to Khachadourian.

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Winchester's goal for the season remains the same as always, and that's to win the Division 1 state title. They came ever so close last year.

"There is still a lot of hockey to be played from now until the end of March, so it is important that we remain in the moment and continue to get better every day," said the coach. "We want our players not only to be successful in hockey, but also become successful young men. High school sports can provide memorable moments for players, and that's what we are aiming to do.

"The players know we have unfinished business, and as a result are eager to get back to the TD Garden," added Khachadourian. "The energy and tempo in practice has been excellent. This definitely sets a tone for the new players as it defines expectations day in and day out."

Derick DiVincenzo and Chris Usseglio are Khachadourian's assistant coaches.

"All three of us work together to make team-based decisions that are crucial to our success," said Khachadourian.

Of course, Winchester plays in the Middlesex League, one of the top conferences in the state.

"Every team we face this season is going to give us their best game. We can't afford to take a night off in this league, because everyone is competitive. All the teams are skilled and well-coached, which is why it's important for us to be prepared and have a complete effort night in and night out," said Khachadourian.

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SPORTS

Winchester boys basketball heads to Bridgewater-Raynham for Sweet 16 game after beating Lexington in postseason opener

It was the third meeting this year between Middlesex League boys basketball rivals Lexington (16-5, 11th seed) and Winchester (17-4, 22nd seed). They split the first two during the regular season, thus making this Round of 32 postseason matchup the impromptu rubber game of this year's series, with the

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Winchester wrestling enjoys Top 10 finish at state divisional meet; senior captains move on to All-States

After the Winchester High qualified wrestlers competed hard over two days last weekend (Feb. 20, 21) in the State Division 1 Meet at North Andover High School, Mother Nature gave them a break to rest and recuperate with Monday's blizzard that resulted in two days off from school. There

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Winchester boys hockey advances to the Sweet 16 after beating Wachusett in the tournament opener

The Winchester High boys hockey team (12-9-2), the 17th seed, edged the 16th-seeded Wachusett Regional Mountaineers (18-2-1), 5-4 in a Round of 32 Division 1 state tournament game at Westborough's Northstar Ice Arena on Feb. 25. The Red & Black will now take on top seed Catholic Memorial (18-2-1)

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SPORTS

With postseason starting Friday night, WHS boys hoop seniors English, Sarpong, Burbine join Middlesex League elite

The Winchester High boys basketball team, the 22nd seed, will take on Middlesex League rival Lexington, the 11th seed, to begin the Division 1 state tournament in the Round of 32 on Friday night, Feb. 27, starting at 6 p.m. These teams are so evenly matched, beginning with the

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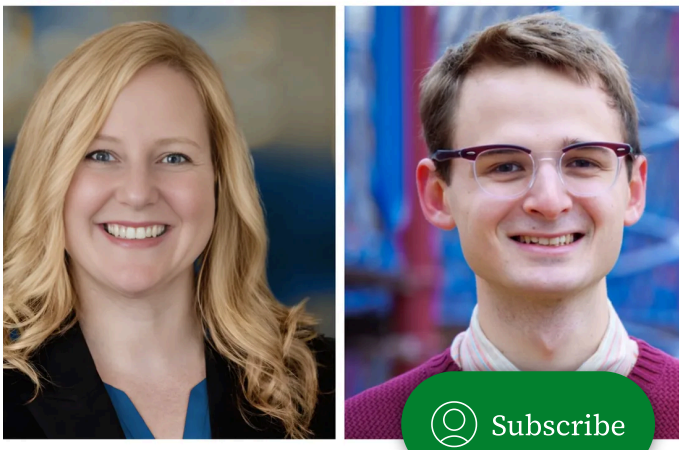

NEWS

Celebrate Women's History Month with Girls Leading Change

The following was submitted by the Network for Social Justice: To mark Women's History Month and International Women's Day in 2026, the Network for Social Justice is collaborating with club leaders from Winchester High School and members of the Community Health team from La Colaborativa in Chelsea and

March 4, 2026

Winchester School Committee candidates bring contrasting backgrounds to Thursday forum

Two candidates for Winchester's School Committee will face voters at a forum as the district navigates a new literacy curriculum, budget pressures and questions about student mental health. Heather von Mering and John Bellaire are competing for an open seat on the School Committee, which oversees a budget von

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FEATURES

'Chicago: Teen Edition' dances onto the Winchester High School stage

By Talia Ho | Correspondent Fame. Fortune. And all that jazz. This spring, Winchester High School presents "Chicago: Teen Edition," a bold musical that explores celebrity culture, media manipulation, and the cost of ambition. This iconic production is set in the 1920s. Performances will take place on March 13 and 14

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

March 4, 2026

EVENTS

Ripley Chapel in Winchester presents 'Syldason: You Are Welcome Here'

The following was submitted by the Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church: On Friday, March 13, beginning at 7:30 p.m., live in-person and live streamed from the stunning Ripley Chapel at First Congregational Church, Winchester, 21 Church St., join in with Syldason, a duo concert featuring Sylvie Zakarian,

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